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8 March 1977 25X1

Unauthorized Disclosure of Classified Information

From 1959 to date there have been reported 292 separate unauthorized public disclosures of classified intelligence information. Fifteen of these unauthorized disclosures have occurred in the past six months.

Within the Executive Branch of the US Government, unauthorized disclosures are being made mostly by personnel interested in supporting a particular cause or policy.

There has been little success in identifying leakers due to:

1. Inability to ensure cases of unauthorized disclosures are investigated thoroughly and in a timely fashion. Obtaining FBI investigative support has been a serious problem.

2. The wide dissemination of intelligence reports.

3. The lack of enforceable legislation for punishing personnel found to be making unauthorized disclosures to the news media.

Attached are examples of recent unauthorized leaks of intelligence sources or methods.

Attachment:
As stated

May Be Downgraded to Unclassified
When Removed From Attachment

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TOP SECRET

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MEMORANDUM
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☐ WILL CALL AGAIN   ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

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MESSAGE

The subject of tomorrow's meeting is
about unauthorized disclosure of
classified information and all the
issues that surround it, particularly
whether or not additional legislation
is needed. Also, it would be very
useful if Admiral Turner could be
provided with facts about the incident
of disclosure within the Intel. Com.
(how often, specific cases, etc.).

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STANDARD FORM 63
REVISED AUGUST 1967
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

GPO : 1969—048—16—80841-1 882-889   63-108

It is his understanding that
the Vice President will be looking
to Admiral Turner for answers.

Please call if you have any
additional questions.